AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A policy server comprising:

   a.   a pre-computation module <u>classifying conditions of policy types into one triggering condition and at least one passive condition and</u> grouping a plurality of policies having the same triggering condition and policy decision into a policy equivalency class<u>, said pre-computation module continuously evaluating said policies based on changes in said passive conditions, and said pre-computation module further scheduling a prioritized evaluation based on demand and/or resources</u>;

   b.   a scheduler initiating <u>said prioritized</u> policy evaluation, wherein received events satisfying passive conditions determine policy-managed entity memberships with respect to the policy equivalency class, thereby prioritizing the evaluation of policy equivalency classes based on demand for the class and available resources;

   c.   a triggering module monitoring communication network events satisfying the triggering condition, ~~the triggering module initiating policy evaluation subsequent to the triggering condition being satisfied~~;

   d.   a policy decision distribution mechanism issuing the policy decision <u>upon detection of the triggering condition being satisfied, and distributing the policy decision</u> to the policy equivalency class member policy-managed entities <u>of said policy equivalence class</u> for policy enforcement; and

   e.   a policy repository for storing the plurality of policies and the policy decision[[;]] ~~and~~

~~grouping the plurality of policies into the policy equivalency class, and associating policy-managed entities with the policy equivalency class, provides policy equivalency class restricted policy evaluation reducing policy evaluation overheads.~~

2.   (ORIGINAL) The policy server claimed in claim 1, the policy server being associated with a network management system providing support of one of policy-based network management, and policy-based service provisioning.

CLAIM 3.   (CANCELLED)

4.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The policy server claimed in claim 1, wherein the policy repository comprises one of a database and a directory.

5.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The policy server claimed in claim 1, wherein the policy repository further comprises a policy condition management interface providing interaction with one of the policies and policy conditions.

6.   (ORIGINAL) The policy server claimed in claim 1, the policy server being further associated with a policy equivalency class repository for storing policy equivalency class specifications.

7.   (ORIGINAL) The policy server claimed in claim 1, further comprising a policy condition management interface providing interaction with one of the policies and policy conditions.

8.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A method of policy evaluation comprising steps of:
   a.   grouping a plurality of policies having the same ~~triggering condition and~~ policy decision into a policy equivalency class, <u>and classifying conditions of the policy equivalency class into equivalency class into one triggering condition and at least one passive condition</u>;

b.   determining policy-managed entity membership with respect to the policy equivalency class;

c.   receiving an event satisfying the triggering condition;

d.   ~~based on satisfying the triggering condition, performing policy evaluation of the group of policies of the policy equivalency class, thereby prioritizing the evaluation of policy equivalency classes based on demand for the class and available resources; and~~

~~e.~~ distributing the policy decision <u>corresponding to said triggering condition</u> for policy enforcement to policy-managed entity members of the policy equivalency class,

~~grouping the plurality of policies into the policy equivalency class, and associating policy-managed entities with the policy equivalency class, provides policy equivalency class restricted policy evaluation reducing policy evaluation overheads~~<u>wherein policies of the policy equivalency class resulting in said policy decision are</u>:

e.   <u>continuously evaluating said policy decision based on changes related to each said at least one passive condition</u>~~;~~.

f.   <u>in addition to said continuous evaluation based on changes related to the at least one passive condition, scheduling prioritized policy evaluation for policy equivalency class related policies based on demands for the policy equivalency classes and/or available resources.</u>

9.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein performing policy evaluation based on satisfying the triggering condition, the method further comprises a step of: changing a corresponding policy-managed entity's membership with respect to the policy equivalence class.

10.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 8, the method further comprising a step of: monitoring events in a communications network.

CLAIM 11.   (CANCELED)

12.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The method as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 8, wherein performing policy evaluation based on satisfying the passive condition, the method further comprises a step of: changing a corresponding policy-managed entity's membership with respect to the policy equivalence class.

13.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The method as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 8, scheduling policy evaluation with respect to the passive condition, the method further comprises a step of: prioritizing passive condition related policy evaluation based on a demand for one of a policy and the policy equivalency class.

14.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a step of: determining a demand for the one of the policy and the policy equivalency class based on a previous utilization frequency thereof.

15.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a step of: specifying a policy condition.

16.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein specifying the policy condition, the method further comprises a step of: designating the policy condition as one of the triggering condition and a passive condition.

17.   (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein specifying the triggering condition, the method further comprises a step of: specifying one of a time-of-day event, a quality-of-service event, a source available event, a source unavailable event, a broadcast start event, and an information flow available event to be monitored.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein specifying the triggering condition the method further comprises a step of: logically combining events.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein specifying the passive condition, the method further comprises a step of: specifying one of a prepaid status event, a policy-managed entity on-line event, a policy-managed entity off-line event, a policy-managed entity capability, and a policy-managed entity interest in a service.